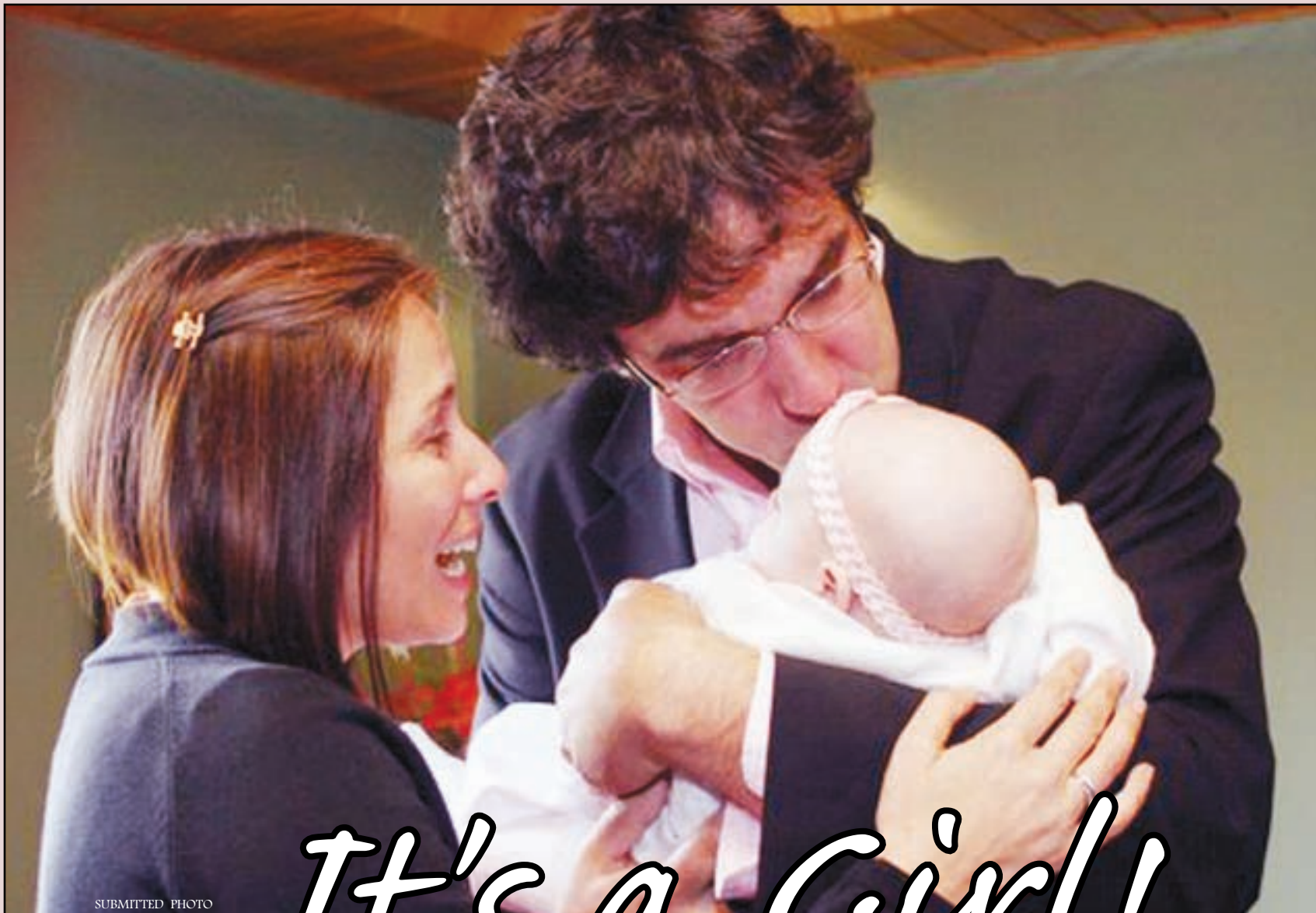


November 30, 2007



SUBMITTED PHOTO

It's a Girl!

By Nate Daymut
Rocket Staff
and Ivan Moore
Rocket Contributor

A married couple from Slippery Rock stood in a small room in Bogota, Colombia, surrounded by their smiling family members.

Then, in a matter of minutes, the couple turned into a family.

Slippery Rock University professors Chris Kreiser and Melissa Teodoro recently adopted a newborn baby girl, Luisa Mariana Kreiser-Teodoro, from the Bogota-based Foundation for the Assistance of Abandoned Children, known by their Spanish-translated acronym, FANA.

Kreiser, an assistant professor in the English department, and Teodoro, an assistant professor in the dance department, were married in the summer of 2006 with Teodoro's family in Colombia and then held a separate ceremony for Kreiser's family in Cleveland.

Shortly after the wedding, the couple decided they wanted to start a family.

However, Kreiser said while he and Teodoro are in good health, the risk of having a baby at their age was an important factor in their decision to adopt rather than try to conceive on their own.

Kreiser said once the decision was made to adopt, the couple knew they would be using FANA, as Teodoro's family has

had several members adopted through FANA and has made financial contributions to the organization as well.

According to the Families of FANA Web site, the organization has been responsible for providing homes for over 10,000 children since its founding more than 30 years ago, with more than 300 adoptions taking place in Western New York and Pennsylvania alone.

To complete the final steps of the adoption, Kreiser and Teodoro arrived in Bogota the day before they were to receive their new daughter and had to quickly adjust to the idea of having of a child and starting a family together.

"We arrived on Wednesday, and Thursday was adoption day,"

Kreiser said. "Five minutes ago you were just a couple, and five minutes later you're a family."

Kreiser said the scene in the waiting room was like a party, but nothing could compare to the first time he saw his new daughter.

"The first moment when they brought her in, it was the greatest moment of my life," Kreiser said. "I was instantaneously hooked. This is my daughter."

When a couple adopts from FANA, their new child is carried into the waiting room by a former FANA child and handed to them.

Because many of Teodoro's family members, who were unavailable for comment, live in

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Residence Life to help raise money for St. Jude

By Chris Schilling
Rocket Contributor

At St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn., children who have been diagnosed with various forms of cancer and other life-threatening illnesses are often treated for their diseases by new experimental medicines and treatments that save hundreds of lives each year.

While many children have found hope at St. Jude Hospital, the issue of finding a way to pay for the expensive medicines and new treatments is a hurdle many parents cannot jump over.

But there is a new trend sweeping across college campuses in America to help save the children at St. Jude, and Slippery Rock University is no exception.

Tonight, the Office of Residence Life, along with the Residential Commons and Residential Interest Community Assistants, the Association of Residence Hall Students, and the National Residence Hall Honorary, is sponsoring a drive to raise financial support for the St. Jude Hospital in an event called "Up 'til 2 for St. Jude."

The drive is a one-day event during which students will write letters to their loved ones asking for financial support for St. Jude Hospital and, at the same time, will allow SRU students to have a little fun.

"This is going to be a great opportunity for students to make a difference," said Mindy Somerville, one of the project's 10 coordinators. "Cancer is a terrible disease, especially when it affects children, and we are going to try to do something about it."

Somerville, a senior elementary education major, said "Up 'til 2 for St. Jude" is an idea that was taken from a national movement taking place at colleges across the country. She said it not only gets students involved in a social issue, but is a way for America's leading children's

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IMAGE COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

Campus project to provide gifts for less-fortunate children

By Jessica Rupell
Rocket Focus Editor

Since Black Friday and Cyber Monday have passed, holiday shopping is now on the minds of many.

But while sale prices, store flyers and talk of the newest gadgets is circulating through the chilly air, parents with little more than old receipts and gum wrappers in their wallets may not be looking forward to the holiday season as much as others.

In order to help those in need during the Christmas season, many organizations such as Toys for Tots and the Salvation Army strive to financially assist families during the Christmas season.

Laurel Dagnon, the director of programming at the Institute for Community, Service-Learning and Nonprofit Leadership, said the institute has been a part of this Christmas giving since the early '90s by helping the Butler Salvation Army.

Dagnon said while the Public

Relations office at Slippery Rock University has helped in the past with the reception at the end of the project, the institute has always been the one running it.

Ian McGinnity, the graduate assistant of special projects of the Institute for Community, Service-Learning and Nonprofit Leadership, said at the end of October the Butler Salvation Army gave the institute the names of 75 children who needed to be "adopted" for the Christmas season, along with their age, sex and wish list.

Dagnon said the Salvation Army compiles a list of families with need, such as single-parent families and children in shelters.

"Mainly (it includes people) who have economics that are just not there," Dagnon said.

While in the past the university has adopted more children—250 and 125 in 2005 and 2006, respectively—Dagnon

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Symphony orchestra to hold "exciting night of music"

By Liz Glazier
Rocket Assistant Focus Editor

As the musicians lifted the bows to their instruments and the conductor raised his baton to cue the music to begin, the 2007 Slippery Rock Symphony Orchestra prepared for its fall semester concert on Nov. 26 in one of its final rehearsals in Miller Auditorium.

Wearing a Pittsburgh Steelers football jersey, Warren Davidson, the conductor of the SRU Symphony Orchestra, led the rehearsal at a steady pace, getting through all the pieces that needed to be rehearsed for the concert.

Davidson would go over certain parts of a song with the musicians, stopping them occasionally to give suggestions or make corrections, before piecing the parts together to create the whole song.

Even when the musicians weren't playing during certain parts in the songs, they sat vigilantly, involved with the piece and aware of when to continue playing again.

Each semester, the SRU Symphony Orchestra, made up of about 45 musicians, puts on



SAMANTHA CHALMERS/THE ROCKET

During their rehearsal on Nov. 26 in Miller Auditorium, the Slippery Rock Symphony Orchestra practices for its winter concert. The concert, to be held on Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. in Swope Music Hall, will feature three pieces.

one performance for the students and citizens of Slippery Rock. This semester's performance will be held on Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. in Swope Music Hall.

The concert will consist of three pieces: "Overture Impresario" by Mozart, "Piano Concerto in A-minor" and Beethoven's Sixth Symphony.

The Beethoven piece is considered a pastoral and illustrates his experiences in the countryside.

Davidson chose the pieces by determining which would work best together.

"Hopefully they will be able to make an interesting and exciting night of music," Davidson said.

The preparation for this performance began during the beginning of the school year and will continue until the night of the concert.

Since early September, the

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